

**Comments of Councilman Arnold W. Ackerman made at the March 6, 1972 Common Council meeting after presenting the resolution attached hereto:**

Councilman Ackerman: Your Honor, in support of this Resolution, I would like to advise the members of the Council that there are some twenty-four (24) cities and towns of all sizes in the State of Connecticut that now have Commissions on the Arts.

The Commission would, in general: coordinate existing activities of which there are many in the City; make a survey of the artistic and cultural resources of Middletown; encourage individual participation and an appreciation of the Arts; actively support Arts programs in Middletown schools; promote new artistic and cultural programs in the community; plan for needed physical facilities; utilize available State and Federal funds, cooperate with our colleges to involve more Middletown citizens as participants in, and audiences .... at cultural events, or raise funds to provide them. Also encourage public interest in the cultural heritage of the City, and in the language of the CDAP Cultural Committee, provide a long needed meeting ground for all segments of the community.

A qualified and dedicated Commission will also prove of immense benefit in bringing industry and business to our downtown area and to the City as a whole. Experience in the last few years has shown quite conclusively, at least to me, that physical renewal and redevelopment of the City are not enough to prevent apathy and decay. Along with, and perhaps even preceding physical renewal, must come the renewal of the spirit of the community. The establishment and vigorous support of the Commission on the Arts and Cultural Activities in the City of Middletown will go a long way towards reaching this objective.

## **R E S O L U T I O N**

### **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MIDDLETOWN:**

That there shall be a Commission known as THE COMMISSION ON THE ARTS AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES OF THE CITY OF MIDDLETOWN. The purpose of the Commission shall be to promote and stimulate general interest and participation in the creative, performing and visual arts among the citizens of the City.

The Commission shall consist of nine members, not more than five of whom shall be registered members of the same political party; who shall be appointed by the Mayor, with the advise and consent of the Common Council. Two of the nine members of the Commission shall be members of the Common Council, one from each political party. The Common council members shall serve only during their terms of office as councilmen, and upon the expiration of such terms of office, vacancies shall exist which shall be filled hereinafter provided.

Three members shall be appointed for a term of five years; two members for a term of four years; and two members for a term of three years. Thereafter, all members except those appointed from the Common Council, shall be appointed for a term of five years. Each vacancy shall be forthwith filled by the Common Council for nomination by the Mayor for the unexpired portion of the term of the member whose place shall become vacant.

The Commission shall establish such by-laws, rules and regulations as may be necessary to achieve the purposes set out herein.

The Commission shall prepare a monthly arts calendar and make a semi-annual report to the Mayor and Common Council.

***Passed and Adopted: March 6, 1972***